

From: Mark Stewart
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/29/02 12:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

3043 Pawlings Ford Road

Lansdale, PA 19446

January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am a computer technology manager and obviously, quite familiar with the recent settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I am writing to ask that you give your approval to this agreement and allow us to move on. This agreement was reached after very arduous negotiations, resulting in what I believe to be a fair and equitable agreement. I firmly believe that the original lawsuit is what precipitated the downfall of the economy, and further litigation will only continue to hamper our economic recovery.

Because I am in the industry, I believe the supposed monopoly of the market by Microsoft will disappear. Microsoft's dominance of the market was with the desktop; but with the appearance of the Internet, Microsoft will have to struggle to maintain its dominance of the market. Further litigation will only hamper any possible innovation by Microsoft, which will not only be Microsoft's loss, but ours as well. Bill Gates, through Microsoft, has taken us much further than we would have gone without him. We are depriving ourselves of a very talented, creative force merely to satisfy the whining of rivals who cannot compete. The market place is its own regulator,

particularly in technology as it moves so quickly.

Microsoft has satisfied many of the Department of Justice's demands. Microsoft has agreed to open up to third party developers more of its copyrighted code, to aid in the development of third party programs; Microsoft has agreed to internal interface disclosure; Microsoft has agreed to a uniform price list; Microsoft has agreed to a technical committee to oversee future adherence. This is more than fair.

I urge you to give your approval to this agreement and not give in to the pettiness that is so apparent.

cc: Senator Rick Santorum

Sincerely,

Mark Stewart